

Students' perception towards e-learning and effectiveness of online sessions amid Covid-19 Lockdown Phase in India: An analysis

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Synopsis

Introduction

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected educational system worldwide. It has forced educational institutions to close, which has impacted over 90% of the world's student population. As the face to face learning method is no longer appropriate during this unusual phase of Covid-19 pandemic, the situation led to forced immersion of learners into e-learning during this period of Covid-19 Lockdown. In order to continue teaching and learning practices in educational institutions, our education system has resorted to online mode of learning, which is an imperfect yet quick solution to the crises.

Research Gap

The review of literature has shown various studies have been conducted to identify and assess perception & attitude of the e-learners towards e-learning. The research gap is found when it comes to study the perception of the students/e-learners towards e-learning during Covid-19 pandemic situation in India, when e-learning has been emerged as the only available option to continue learning.

Objectives of the Study

1. To identify the perception of the students towards e-learning during Covid-19 lockdown phase.
2. To assess the effectiveness of e- learning/online sessions during Covid-19 lockdown phase.
3. To check whether perception of the students differ with reference to demographics.
4. To check whether effectiveness of e-learning differ with reference to use of technology and demographics.

Research Methodology

In this study primary and secondary data sources have been used. The data is collected through self administered, online circulated, structured questionnaire, which has fetched 182 responses from 16 states of India. The respondents were the students who are using e-learning sources to complete their regular courses or for skill development, during lockdown. The suitable statistical tools have been used to validate and analyse the data.

Major Findings:

- Majority of respondents are attending online session in order to complete their Regular Degree/Diploma Program. Majority of the respondents are using smart phone for the attending online sessions.
- The device being used for attending sessions has been identified as major determinant to decide the degree of user friendliness of e-learning platform as well as an effectiveness of the sessions.
- The network/internet issues are posing major challenges to success of online sessions in India which also highlights digital divide across the country.
- There is considerable percentage of the respondents who have used the e-learning mode of education for the first-time during lockdown phase which affects the perception of the students towards e-learning as well as effectiveness of the sessions.
- This sudden and compulsive shift from face to face teaching to online mode of teaching has significantly affected the perception of the students towards e-learning.
- The major determinants to gauge the effectiveness of e-learning in India have been identified as availability of suitable device, familiarity to the use of technology and required infrastructural facilities.